SUBJECT

Relations between Bulgaria and Albania.

DATE

1/14/31--

CASE NUMBER

774.75

JACKET No. —

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1—1226 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1930

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NOTE

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774.75/1

INDEXED

SEE 875.51/59 FOR #167

FROM Albania (Bernstein) DATED Jan.14, 1931

TO NAME

1—1127 ...

REGARDING:

Conversation with King Zog who reported a conversation with the Bulgarian Charge concerning relations between Bulgaria and Albania.

Wi

"The other day the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me about our relations with Bulgaria. I told him that we were friendly toward the Bulgarians, that we admired the Bulgarian people because they are so energetic and industrious. I explained to him why we did not permit their komitadjis to operate in Albania. I said that our own Kosovo people who desired to come here for the purpose of working against Yugoslavia were not permitted to stay in Albania. I made it clear to him that we did not want here any plots, involving bombs or other forms of violence against any government. I told him that so far as the minorities were concerned, I was in favor of treating the Greeks, the Yugoslavs, the Bulgarians and the Rumanians in Albania upon a basis of equality. If they violate our laws, they will have our police and courts to reckon with."

PM RECD

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tirana, Albania,

No. 459. January 17,1932.

Confidential

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 23 1932
DIVISION OF

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 25 1932
SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 16 1932
DIVISION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 3 1932
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

774.75

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Albania and Bulgaria have signed a Protocol according to which the two nations recognize reciprocally the juridical status of the minorities and undertake to maintain schools for the minorities and for the teaching of the languages of the minorities wherever the number of pupils will warrant the establishment of such schools. In the Protocol the two nations declare that they agree to conclude the Balkan Pact of Friendship, Arbitration and Non-agression, with the reservation that all the other Balkan nations accept the condition pertaining to minorities.

Although

FILED
MAR 8 1932
774.75/2

note
874.4016
875.4016

note
770.0011
770.0012

Although the text of the Protocol has not been made public, I expect to have a copy to forward to the Department within a few days.

see 775.00/9

Mehmed Konitza, head of the Albanian delegation to the Balkan Conference, who went to Sofia to negotiate the agreement, has just returned to Tirana.

Speaking of the agreement, Mr. Konitza said:

"I find that Bulgaria has no definite foreign policy. That is the impression I have gathered from my talks with both King Boris and Premier Mushanoff. I asked the Premier whether Bulgaria would be in favor of proceeding with the formation of the Balkan Entente, even if Yugoslavia refused to join it. He replied that without Yugoslavia a Balkan Entente would not be representative. Besides, he thought that the Little Entente would consider the Balkan Entente without Yugoslavia as a rival combination. I told him that the Balkan Entente would not close its doors to Yugoslavia, that Yugoslavia could join our Federation as soon as she agreed to recognize the question of minorities along the lines of the Albanian-Bulgarian agreement.

note 770.00

"Yugoslavia was to send delegates to Bulgaria on January 11 for the purpose of negotiating an agreement with regard to the minorities question, the non-aggression and mutual help pact, but the conference of the delegates has been postponed indefinitely. I believe that King Boris is opposed to any understanding between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia for personal reasons. First of all the question of the dynasty may be involved, if these two Slav countries

note 760H.74

should

should enter into closer and friendlier relations. A union between the Slav countries may be the next step. And then one of the Kings would eventually have to be eliminated. Then there is the strong influence of Italy on King Boris. For these reasons both the Bulgarians and the Italians are encouraging the Macedonian komitadji. Italy is spending vast sums on the komitadji organizations and is inciting them to terrorism.

"Within a few weeks I shall go to Istanbul, for another preliminary conference in connection with the next Balkan Conference. It is possible that we shall sign an agreement with Turkey along the lines of our agreement with Bulgaria.

"I understand that a number of people in Tirana were wondering about the purpose of my mission to Sofia. Some imagined that I was going to arrange a match between King Zog and the sister of King Boris, the princess Eudoxia. Strangely enough I heard the same rumors in Sofia. But there is no truth in these reports.

"I am not surprised that the people in the street had all sorts of theories as to the purpose of my trip to Sofia, for our own Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hussein Vrioni, asked me on the eve of my departure about the object of my journey to Bulgaria."

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

Copies to Rome, Belgrade, Sofia
and Istanbul.

HB/SJS
710

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1 copy in D.C.R. - L.E.B.

PM RECD

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tirana, Albania.

No. 446.

January 28, 1932.

Confidential.

TREATY DIVISION
FEB 18 32
APR 8 - 1932
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 19 1932
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CLERK. YOS TO
To Chief Field
Div. Div. A
One copy sent to Legation at Athens
" " " " Embassy Istanbul cwa

774.75
note
874.4016 - Albanian
875.4016 - Bulgarian
770 Istanbul 1931

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir: 774.75/2

Treaty cards

Referring to my despatch No. 439, of January 17, 1932, I have the honor to submit herewith the text of the Protocol signed by the heads of the Albanian and Bulgarian delegations at Sofia on January 9, 1932. The text of the Protocol, which has not yet been made public, was given to me by Mr. Mehmed Konitza.

The signing of the Pfotocol by the Albanian and Bulgarian delegates to the Balkan Conference seems to have intensified uneasiness in Yugoslavia and Roumania. The Yugoslav Minister expressed the opinion that it was premature to sign such a Protocol at this time, that it created an unfaverable impression in Yugoslavia, and

774.75/3
FILED
APR 11 1932

and that the Bulgarian minority schools which may be established in Albania under the terms of this Protocol would in all likelihood become propaganda nests for Macedonian komitajis. The Roumanian Minister said that he attached no importance to the agreement between the Albanian and Bulgarian delegates concerning the treatment of minorities, and ventured the opinion that nothing would come of the agreement. The Greek Minister declared that it would not be quite so easy for the Balkan delegates to sign a similar Protocol with the Greek delegation at this time. The Italian Minister thought that it was perhaps unwise for Albania to create a new Bulgarian minority problem. He added, however, that it was a matter of indifference to his government.

Foreign Minister Vrioni, commenting on the Protocol, endeavored to minimize its significance, explaining that the agreement was merely an understanding between the delegations to the Balkan Conference and that the Albanian Government had officially nothing to do with it.

As a matter of fact, Mehmed Konitza went to Bulgaria at the request of King Zog, and was accompanied by Dr. Fuad Aslani, of the Foreign Office, who has now been appointed Albanian Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia. The Protocol, which was approved by King Zog, will undoubtedly be ratified by the Albanian Parliament in the near future.

"The.

"The Near East and India", for January 14, 1932, commenting editorially on Balkan Minorities, in relation to the Albanian-Bulgarian Protocol, says:

"When it is recalled that the total number of Bulgarians in Albania at the time of the 1930 census was eleven, and that the Albanians in Bulgaria have not yet been numerous enough to figure separately in census returns, but are included among the 11,000 inhabitants designated as 'of other nationalities', it will be seen that there can be no opportunity for the practical application of this part of the protocol in either country".

"The Near East" is poorly informed on this question. As a matter of fact, the following villages in the prefectures of Koreha and of Dibra are inhabited by Albanians of Bulgarian origin: Beznishta, Bilisht (partly), Boboshticë, Drenova, Goritsa, Gllombooh, Pustec, Shuec, Shulin, Vernik, Zaroshkë, Gjinovitsa, Kerchisht, Ladomeritsa, Ostren' i Vogel, Sebisht, Steblona, Strajtsa, Shullan, Trebisht, Vernitsa.

The total number of these Bulgarians in Albania is approximately 6,500. As for the number of Albanians in Bulgaria, the following statement made recently by Lazar Iankov Grabova, president of "Dëshira", the union of Albanian cultural societies in Bulgaria, is of interest:

"The signature of the Protocol between the Bulgarian and Albanian delegates, by the terms of which they

they pledge themselves to work for the application of the clauses in Peace Treaties, concerning minorities, has received in the press of Belgrade and Athens very malevolent echoes even though Yugoslavia and Greece took part in the Athens and Istanbul conferences which had for their purpose the assurance of fraternity among the Balkan states.

"Among other things, it is said in these articles that there does not exist a Bulgarian minority in Albania and vice versa.

"Taking notice of these assertions, the "Dëshira" Union which combines the cultural societies of Albanians in Bulgaria and represents all Albanians sojourning in the latter country, considers it is its duty to declare that the number of Albanians living in Bulgaria amounts to some ten thousand and that there are now in Albania several thousand Bulgarians.

"The Albanians residing in Bulgaria can only felicitate themselves then for the signature of the above mentioned Protocol and they hope that very soon the rights will also be realized by the Albanian minorities in Yugoslavia and in Greece where there are not a mere ten thousand but hundreds of thousands of Albanians who do not enjoy even the most elementary rights. The solution of the minorities question is the first step in the way of a Balkan rapproachment."

Mr. Konitza left for Istanbul a few days ago in connection with further preparations for the next

Balkan

Balkan Conference. It is likely that a Protocol along the lines of the Albanian-Bulgarian understanding will soon be signed between the Albanian and Turkish delegations.

770 Istanbul 1931

Before leaving Tirana, Konitza informed me that the Roumanian delegation had notified him that because of the severe economic depression, it would be impossible for them to invite the various delegations to Bucharest for the next Balkan Conference.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

Herman Bernstein.

Enclosure:
Text and Translation of Protocol.

Copy to Sofia.

HB:KK
710

4 Carbon Copies
Received JM
1 copy in D.C.R. - L.E.B.

F I N A L P R O T O C O L .

I.

Conforming to the resolutions passed by the Second Balkan Conference, the Albanian and Bulgarian delegations, meeting at Sofia, have exchanged views on the application of the treaties relating to minorities and are agreed on the following:

1. The Albanian delegation recognizes the existence of a Bulgarian minority in Albania.

2. The Bulgarian delegation recognizes the existence in Bulgaria of an Albanian minority.

3. The Albanian delegation pledge themselves to intervene with its Government with the object of proceeding to open Bulgarian schools in the towns and villages where the Bulgarian population predominates. In these schools instruction will be given in the Bulgarian language and the Albanian language will be obligatory.

Moreover, in the Albanian schools attended by a sufficient number of Bulgarian scholars, the Albanian delegates pledge themselves to undertake with whomsoever is responsible measures to the end that the Bulgarian language for Bulgarian scholars shall be introduced into these institutions.

On

On its part, the Bulgarian delegation undertakes to intervene with its Government in order that the latter proceed to the opening of Albanian schools in every locality where the Albanian element predominates. In these schools, instruction will be given in the Albanian language and the Bulgarian language will be obligatory.

In the Bulgarian schools attended by a sufficient number of Albanian scholars, the Bulgarian delegates pledge themselves to undertake with whomsoever it concerns measures to the end that the Albanian language for Albanian students shall be introduced in these schools.

4. With regard to Bulgarian Churches situated in Albanian territory, the solution of this question will be postponed to a later date.

5. The two above-mentioned delegations mutually commit themselves to undertake necessary measures with whomsoever is concerned in order to obtain the free exchange of all sorts of publications, save those prohibited by the respective laws of the two countries.

II.

The two delegations, Albanian and Bulgarian, pledge themselves to intervene with their respective governments to the end that they proceed as soon as possible

possible to the conclusion of a pact of friendship, arbitration and non-aggression.

III.

The two delegations pledge themselves loyally to take steps with their respective governments to the end that they proceed at a favorable time to the conclusion of a treaty of commerce. Meanwhile, they express the hope that appropriate measures be taken to facilitate the exchange of products and merchandise originating in the two countries.

Albanian Delegate: (s) MEHMED KONITZA.

Bulgarian Delegate: " JANKO SAKAZOFF.
" ANDRE TOCHEFF.

Sofia, January 9, 1932.

PROTOCOLE FINAL.

I.

Conformément à la résolution votée par la deuxième Conférence Balkanique à Stamboul, les Délégations Albanaise et Bulgare, réunies à Sofia, ont échangé des vues sur l'application des traités concernant les minorités et se sont entendues sur ce qui suit:

1. La Délégation Albanaise reconnaît l'existence d'une minorité bulgare en Albanie.

2. La Délégation Bulgare reconnaît l'existence d'une minorité albanaise en Bulgarie.

3. Le Délégation Albanaise prend l'engagement d'intervenir auprès de son Gouvernement afin de procéder à l'ouverture d'écoles bulgares dans les villes et villages où la population bulgare prédomine. Dans ces écoles l'enseignement sera donné en langue bulgare et la langue albanaise sera obligatoire.

D'autre part, dans les écoles albanaises fréquentées par une nombre suffisant d'élèves bulgares, le groupe albanais s'engage à entreprende auprès de qui de droit des démarches pour que la langue bulgare pour les élèves bulgares soit introduite dans ces établissements.

De son côté, la Délégation Bulgare prend l'engagement d'intervenir auprès de son Gouvernement pour que ce dernier procède à l'ouverture d'écoles albanaises dans toute localité où l'élément albanais prédomine. Dans ces écoles, l'enseignement sera donné en langue albanaise et la langue bulgare sera obligatoire.

Dans

Dans les écoles bulgares fréquentées par une nombre suffisant d'élèves albanais, le groupe bulgare s'engage à faire des démarches auprès de qui de droit pour que la langue albanaise pour les élèves albanais soit introduite dans ces écoles.

4. En ce qui concerne les églises bulgares situées en territoire albanais, la solution de cette question sera remise à une date ultérieure.

5. Les deux délégations susmentionnées s'obligent mutuellement d'entreprendre les démarches nécessaires auprès de qui de droit pour obtenir le libre échange de toute sorte de publications, sauf celles prohibées par les lois respectives dans les deux pays.

II.

Les deux délégations - Albanaise et Bulgare -s'engagent à intervenir auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs afin qu'ils procèdent au plus tôt à la conclusion d'un pacte d'amitié, d'arbitrage et de non-agression.

III.

Les mêmes Délegations s'engagent également à faire des démarches auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs afin qu'ils procèdent, en temps opportun, à la conclusion d'un traité de commerce. Entre-temps, elles expriment le voeu que des mesures appropriées soient prises pour faciliter l'échange des produits et des marchandises provenant des deux pays.

Délégué Albanais: (Signé) Mehmed Konitza.

Délégué Bulgare: (Signé) Janko Sakazoff.
" André Tocheff.

Sofia, le 9 janvier 1932.

RECD

DEPT. OF STATE DIV. COM. & REC.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, January 29, 1932.

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No. 354

FEB 26 32

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 27 1932
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 1932
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR DISTRI

NO

Copy to MID

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

MAR 29 1932

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the Department's information, a translation of the text of the agreement signed at Sofia on January 9, 1932, by representatives of the Albanian and Bulgarian delegations to the Second Balkan Conference.

It should be noted that the agreement is not one between governments, and is simply an undertaking on the part of the two delegations concerned to urge upon their respective governments the desirability of recognizing the existence of the minorities and the extension to them of minority rights in so far as education and the free entry of publications are concerned. Obviously, the document could

774.75/4

FILED

MAR 30 1932

could not have been brought into existence without the tacit approval of the Albanian and the Bulgarian Governments. In this connection it may be pointed out that it does not seem likely that the primary object of the two delegations in concluding this agreement was to remedy any existing injustice, in so far as the relatively small minorities mentioned, are concerned (Bulgarians in Albania are not thought to exceed 40,000 and the Albanians in Bulgaria are believed to number less than 10,000). It is more likely that the two delegations were motivated by tactical considerations, it being thought that such an agreement would improve their position when demanding equitable treatment for Albanian and Bulgarian minorities in Greece and Yugoslavia. The agreement has been interpreted in this sense both at Athens and Belgrade.

875.4016-Bulgarians
874.4016-Albanians

The undertaking in Article II to work for a pact of friendship, arbitration and non-aggression is interesting, primarily as it is understood that the Albanian delegates suggested the immediate conclusion of such a pact. The Legation has been informed that Bulgaria is disinclined to conclude such a pact with Albania, fearing that such a step would cause undue concern in Yugoslavia.

774.7511

In connection with Mehmet Konitza's remarks on the failure of representatives of the Bulgarian and Yugoslav delegations to meet early in January, which were reported in despatch No.439 of January 17 from the Legation at Tirana, it should be pointed out that the plan was that representatives of the Bulgarian delegation should go to Belgrade on January 12. The day before their scheduled

774.75/2

departure,

departure, the Bulgarian representatives received word from Belgrade to the effect that the meeting had been postponed. It is understood here that the meeting has been called off as a result of official displeasure at Belgrade with the activities of the Yugoslav delegation while in Ankara. This displeasure was mentioned by Mr. Antonoff in the articles which formed the subject of the Legation's despatch No.349 of January 16, 1932.

760H.74/290

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker,
Henry W. Shoemaker.

Enclosure: As stated.

710

Copy sent to E.I.C.

Bulgaro-Albanian Protocol Relative to the Protection of Bulgarian and Albanian Minorities in the Two Countries.

I.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Second Balkan Conference held in Stamboul, the Albanian and Bulgarian delegations have met in Sofia for an exchange of views on the application of the treaties concerning the protection of minorities and have agreed as follows:

1. The Albanian delegation recognizes the existence of a Bulgarian minority in Albania.

2. The Bulgarian delegation recognizes the existence of an Albanian minority in Bulgaria.

3. The Albanian delegation undertakes to intervene with its Government for the opening of Bulgarian schools in the cities and villages where the population is predominantly Bulgarian. Instruction in these schools will be given in the Bulgarian language and the study of the Albanian language will be compulsory.

On the other hand, with reference to the Albanian schools having a sufficient number of Bulgarian pupils, the Albanian delegation agrees to take action vis à vis the competent authorities to end that the Bulgarian language be introduced in these schools for the Bulgarian pupils.

On its part, the Bulgarian delegation assumes the

obligation

obligation to intervene with its Government to the end that Albanian schools be opened in the places where the Albanian population is predominant. In these schools tuition will be given in the Albanian language, the study of the Bulgarian language being compulsory.

With reference to Bulgarian schools having a sufficient number of Albanian pupils, the Bulgarian section engages itself to take action vis à vis the competent authorities to the end that Albanian language be introduced in these schools for the Albanian pupils.

4. As for the Bulgarian churches in Albanian territory, the solution of this question is postponed for a later date.

5. The two delegations mentioned above mutually agree to take the necessary steps to make possible the free exchange of all kinds of publications, except those prohibited by the laws of the two countries.

II.

The two delegations - Albanian and Bulgarian - agree to intervene with their Governments to the end that a pact of friendship, arbitration and non-agression be signed between the two states as soon as possible.

III.

The two delegations also undertake to intervene with their Governments to the end that a Treaty of

Commerce

Commerce be concluded. They express the wish that in the meamtime appropriate measures be taken in order to facilitate the exchange of products and goods between the two countries.

Sofia, January 9, 1932.

Albanian Delegates:

Mehamed Konitza.

Bulgarian Delegates:

Yanko Sakazov.

André Tochev.

774.75 / 3,4

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NOTE

SEE 770 Bucharest, 1932/1 FOR #2061

FROM Greece (Fisher) DATED Feb. 5,1932

TO NAME 1—1127 ...

REGARDING: Bulgarian-Albanian Minority Protocol.
Greek press believes the -- was signed to embarrass
Yugoslavia and Greece.

leb

774.75/5

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 1287. Belgrade, March 16, 1932.

SUBJECT: Albano-Bulgarian minorities agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 4 - 1932
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR - 2 32
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To
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note
875.4016
875.4016-Bulgarians
760H.00

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to the Department as follows:

FILED
APR 23 1932

The Albano-Bulgarian agreement about minorities which has been signed in Geneva and is to be submitted to the League of Nations for registration has produced a painful impression in Yugoslavia which is reflected in the press. The "Politika" remarks in a leader signed by Dr. Dragutin Yankovich (a local lawyer) and dated March 14, 1932, that, while nothing could be more legitimate than an agreement between two countries regarding the settlement of a question about minorities, the question in this particular case is not quite so innocent looking as it may seem at first sight. "And

this

774.75/6

this aspect of the said question", states the author of the article, "will remain unknown to the League of Nations."

The Yugoslavs consider that the 28 villages in Albania located along the Yugoslav frontier and which, according to the Albano-Bulgarian agreement are to be considered as being inhabited by Bulgarians (the Bulgarian minority in Albania), are actually Yugoslav villages which are by unfortunate circumstances cut off from their native land. These villages consist of some 1400 homes with 8000 inhabitants. The latter are considered as being of pure Serbian stock and, at the time of the dynasty of the Nemanya were under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Dioceses of Ohrid, Bitoly and Debar. Churches in some of these villages are reported to date from 1369 (King Vukashin). These farmers are said to be linguistically and traditionally connected with Yugoslavia. Now, claims the Politika, this Yugoslav minority will be proclaimed as a Bulgarian minority without even being heard. As regards the 40,000 Albanians in Bulgaria (who according to the agreement will be treated as an Albanian minority in Bulgaria) they are said to come from Yugoslav territory.

The recent book by Antonio Baldacci maintains that the Albanian nation spreads up to the Vardar river (in southern and eastern Serbia) and there meets with Bulgarians. "Where are we, Serbians, then?" asks Dr. Dragutin Yankovich. The author finishes by stating that the Balkan Conference, which was started in Athens and Istanbul by representatives of five nations,

finishes

finishes in a dual arrangement in Geneva. "Instead of a friendly convention of all Balkan nations, we come to a dual arrangement of some special solidarity solely between Bulgaria and Albania....This alone is sufficient to trouble the atmosphere of sincere collaboration and reduces the faith in the goodwill of those who worked on the rapprochement of Balkan nations."

The Department will recall that in my despatch No. 353, of January 6, 1928, 870.00 Macedonia/7 on the Macedonian problem, I tried to emphasize the fact that the so-called Macedonian Minority of southern Serbia probably consists of people who were originally Serbs by race and speech but upon whom a Bulgarized idiom and the Turcophile Bulgarian Church had been forced during the long Turkish régime. Racially, therefore, the Serb claim may be justifiable, but linguistically together with all that goes with language these people have differentiated from the standard Serb to such an extent that they have, largely under modern national Bulgarian influence, developed a separatist feeling so far as the Serbs proper are concerned.

The present Yugoslav government is trying in neither a gentle nor tactful way to reserbize these "lost sheep". Whether they will ever succeed is doubtful as there is nothing lovable nor alluring about the present methods to restore an ancient (too ancient perhaps) Serbdom. Of course, Westerners would allow them their own dialect (half Serb and half Bulgar) and their own rites which after all are Orthodox, but stupid Belgrade cannot see this and hence we have the Macedonian question.

Respectfully yours,

John Dyneley Prince

John Dyneley Prince.

File No. 800-Quin.
Copies for E.I.C., Paris.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

774.75/7

SEE 774.00/62 FOR #664

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED May 22, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 •r•

REGARDING:

Arrival in Bulgaria from Albania of Bulgarians who had allegedly been mistreated in Albania.

Wi

In so far as Turkey is concerned, the Department has already received information on the Belgrade incident.

BUREAU OF INDEXES AND ARCHIVES

Happily, this incident has been speedily liquidated.

To complete the picture, although Bulgaria and Albania are not actually neighbors, it should be reported that public opinion in Bulgaria has been aroused by the arrival of Bulgarian refugees from the village of Goritza. These refugees allege mistreatment at the hands of the Albanians. The Albanian version is that these Bulgarian villagers, who cultivated on a share basis land owned by Albanians, refused to hand over to their landlord his share of the crops and that the Albanian Government, motivated by a friendly feeling for all Bulgars, sought to effect a compromise settlement. Albania claims that when the villagers refused to compromise the Government even went so far as to offer to settle the Bulgarians on state-owned land but that being a stubborn people the villagers preferred to depart for Bulgaria.

No one of the foregoing incidents is of a really serious nature. Still they all serve to keep public opinion here and elsewhere stirred up to the detriment of Bulgaria's relations with its neighbors.

Respectfully yours,

Henry H. Shoemaker.

710
HHS:MC
Copies to E.I.C. (3)

Central File: Decimal File 774.75, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Bulgaria And Albania, Jan. 14, 1931 - May 22, 1933. January 14, 1931 - May 22, 1933. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111390811%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.